UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.3/52/L.72
21 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (c)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all States Members of the United Nations have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and as elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and other applicable human rights instruments,

Mindful that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights on the subject, the most recent of which is Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/54 of 15 April 1997,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

1. Welcomes the report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran;[1]

2. Notes with interest that presidential elections were held in the Islamic Republic of Iran this year, and calls upon the Government to meet expectations for tangible progress concerning human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals;

3. Expresses its concern:

(a) At the continuing violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular the large and increasing number of executions in the apparent absence of respect for internationally recognized safeguards, cases of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including stoning, amputation and public executions, the failure to meet international standards in the administration of justice and the absence of due process of law;

(b) At the grave breaches of the human rights of the Baha'is, the discrimination against members of other religious minorities, including Christians, and the death sentences pronounced against Mr. Dhabihullah Mahrami, Mr. Musa Talibi and Mr. Ramadan-Ali Dhulfaqari on the charge of apostasy, and against Bihnam Mithaqi and Kayvan Khalajabadi because of their beliefs;

(c) At the lack of continuity in the cooperation of the Government with the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights;

(d) At the continuing threats to the life of Mr. Salman Rushdie, as well as to individuals associated with his work, which appear to have the support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and deeply regrets the increase announced in the bounty offered for the assassination of Mr. Rushdie by the 15 Khordad Foundation;

(e) At violations of the right to peaceful assembly and restrictions on the freedoms of expression, thought, opinion and the press, as well as at the harassment and intimidation of writers and journalists seeking to exercise their freedom of expression, the sentencing of the writer Mr. Faraj Sarkuhi being only the most recent example of such unacceptable practices;

(f) At the lack of full and equal enjoyment by women of human rights, while noting efforts to integrate women more fully into the political, economic and cultural life of the country;

4. Calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

(a) To resume its cooperation with the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, in particular with the Special Representative to allow him to continue his inquiry first-hand and to continue his dialogue with the Government;

---

[1] A/52/472, annex.

(b) To abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights and under other international instruments on human rights, and to ensure that all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including members of religious groups and persons belonging to minorities, enjoy all the rights enshrined in those instruments;

(c) To implement fully the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on religious intolerance relating to the Baha'is and to other minority religious groups, including Christians, until they are completely emancipated;

(d) To take effective measures to eliminate human rights violations against women, including all discrimination in law and in practice against them;

(e) To refrain from violence against members of the Iranian opposition living abroad and to cooperate wholeheartedly with the authorities of other countries in investigating and prosecuting offences reported by them;

(f) To provide satisfactory written assurances that it does not support or incite threats to the life of Mr. Rushdie;

(g) To ensure that capital punishment will not be imposed for apostasy or non-violent crimes, or in disregard of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations safeguards;

5. Decides to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is, at its fifty-third session under the item entitled "Human rights questions", in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights.